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April 12, 2006



Regulation Comments Chief Counsel's Office Office of Thrift Supervision 1700 G Street, NW Washington, D.C. 20552 Attn: No. 2005-56

Jennifer J. Johnson, Secretary Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System 20th Street & Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, D.C. 20219 "Washington, D.C. 20551

Office of the Comptroller of the Currency 250 E Street, SW, Mail Stop 1-5

Proposed Interagency Guidance on Concentrations in Re: Commercial Real Estate

Ladies and Gentlemen:

This proposed Interagency Guidance on Concentrations in Commercial Real Estate (hereafter referred to as "Guidance") seems to be based on areas that have experienced significant value appreciation and lending institutions that have exceeded the normal credit underwriting guidelines.

This Guidance would impose significant new requirements on community banks, such as ours, as we engage in Commercial Real Estate ("CRE") lending. If this Guidance is implemented, it would require us to invest a significant amount of time, money and effort to counter the assumption that we have an unsafe concentration of real estate loans.

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The new definition of a concentration in CRE combines several different types of CRE lending and establishes triggers for additional action without any attempt to distinguish the different levels of risk posed by each. This results in too many banks being deemed to have a high-risk concentration in CRE.

The Agencies should not issue this one-size-fits-all Guidance. Rather, we recommend that instead of imposing these new costs on the industry in general, the Agencies apply existing guidance on a case-by-case basis to address any problems in those banks not engaging in CRE lending responsibly.

I appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Frank A. Suellentrop

Président

FAS:cw